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1945



THE YELLOW SHEETS

Vol. I., No. 10 — — Laura D. Cole, Grannis, Ark., Owner and Editor.

The spring of 1945 is proving an unusually wet one, delaying farm and garden work, and by wash-outs, hindering rail and truck service. Reminds me of the spring of 1895. The farmers then said they did not plow their crops, they mudded them.

1895 was followed by what are still known as "the three dry years." Three disastrous summer droughts in succession. We do not know that history will repeat itself in this instance, but there is one sound precaution which gardeners can take, just in case, and that is—use your post hole digger freely under hill crops. Go down three or four feet with your digger; then pour in leaves, leaf mat or whatever vegetable refuse you have, enough for several inches when lightly tamped. Rake in several inches of dirt, throwing out stones and other indigestible trash. The upper layers can well be animal refuse if you have it. Add commercial fertilizer, if you intend to use it, with the top layer of dirt. Pull surplus dirt around making a sort of cup-shaped form, to save water in a dry spell, or hill it up if still rainy. I have found this particularly effective with Cucumbers and Melons, Pole Beans of all sorts and Tomatoes.

PARTRIDGE BERRY (*Michella repens*) Hardy evergreen, ground cover.—Needs acid soil, deep shade in the south, berries edible, ideal for terrariums.

RED TRADESCANTIA, so called from cold weather coloring of the leaves. Color of blossoms seems to depend upon the nature of the soil and amount of the sun. One of the spider worts. Hardy perennial.

GREEN BRIAR, vine sticky; berries black; nodules on roots grow quite large and are used to make pipes.

FIVE FINGERS, (*Potentilla*), medicinal vine, with rather attractive foliage and yellow flowers in early summer.

VIRGINIA CREEPER, Native Vine; good cover for buildings, takes brilliant autumn coloring.

WHITE VIOLETS good in yard or as pot plants. Does not require rich soil and can stand over half sun.

WOOLLY VIOLETS, very early, through blooming now and will soon be dormant for the year.

BIRDSFOOT VIOLETS, nearly through spring blooming. Found in thin, clayey soil. If moved to moderately good garden soil, bloom again with the cold fall rains.

CONFEDERATE VIOLETS, grey effect, thrive in poor soil and can stand more sun than others.

Hemerocallis Kwanso—5c.

Sempervivum tectorum.

HARDY CACTI—10c EACH.

OPUNTIA VULGARE (Common Prickly Pear) hardy, flower creamy yellow, fruit edible. Can be used as pot plant. Thrives well in poor soil.

OPUNTIA ROBUSTA. Much taller plant and bigger pads. Stately lawn decoration.

OPUNTIA VASEII, native to Colorado deserts. Much thicker pads. Does well in pots.

OPUNTIA ERINACEA (Grizzly Bear) plenty sticky, hardy.

OPUNTIA RAMOSSISSIMA, hardy and dwarf, good in full sun in rock garden, also good as pot plant.

Any of the above plants, 5c each unless otherwise noted.

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HARDY ROCK GARDEN PLANTS

HARDY SEDUMS. All Sedums I call hardy can survive 15 below zero without protection. Some of them are hardy in the sub-Arctic. Most are fine for rock garden plants. Last year my *Sempervivums* made almost no increase. This year most are "hatching" chicks, and when my backlog of orders left from last year are filled, I hope to have a number of varieties of hardy Semps to offer. This is a rock garden plant par excellence. Most of the dwarf plants listed under other heads, and many of the wildlings are also good for rock gardens.

I have a few plants of alum root to spare. This is a fine rock garden plant and also good as a pot plant. 10c each.

I have wholesale quantities of the following Sedums: *Sarmentosum*, hardy to subarctic, pendant effect. One sent me *Glaucum*, much like *album*, but different flowers and winter color; *album* white flowers; evergreen with us, an *album* hybrid has never bloomed for me, color of foliage slightly different; a grey-green one, which I think is *Altissum*, good in rock garden, dish garden or as a pot plant; *Acre* and *Sexanquale* much alike but different, both dwarf and good ground cover for clayey spots; *Maximowiczii*, little known in U. S. A.—two varieties which are in dispute among the botanists who have seen them. The dealer from whom I bought them, identified No. 26 as the rare pink-flowered flowered *Stoloneferum* and No. 28 as *Stoloneferum coccinea*. The faculty of our State Experiment Station at Hope agree with him, but other botanists just as smart say that both are unusual *Spurium* hybrids.

Have from one to a dozen plants of

other varieties. I have only two plants of the tall *Spectabile alba*, the white House Leek. Will trade other Sedums for small rooted plants of the red, purple and variegated *Spectabiles*. Have had them, put them out in the yard and Bermuda grass killed them.

Any Sedum listed, labeled to the best of my knowledge, 5c.

If selection is left to me, 50 well-rooted Sedums, 10 varieties labeled, \$1.00.

If unlabeled, 1c each in lot of 25.

SEDUM COLLECTION, 7 varieties, my selection, 25c.

HARDY FERNS—Christmas Fern, found here in deep shade near water. The north side of a house would be a good site if water is available. Grows 24 or more inches high.

EBONY SPLEENWORT Fern. Found here in dryer locations than the above, among rocks and under hard wood trees. Can stand a moderate amount of sun. A good rock garden variety, also for pot culture. Transplants very readily, but the leaves will die and it takes its own sweet time about putting out more. Both these varieties evergreen with us, and both hardy over most of the U. S. About 18 inches tall.

BLUNT LOBED WOODSIA Fern. I frequently find it growing close neighbor to the Ebony Spleenwort. Needs same conditions. Is a prettier Fern for cut flower use. Hardy but deciduous. Does well in pots. Seldom more than a foot tall.

LADY FERN—One of our tallest and handsomest Ferns. Needs as much water as the Christmas Fern to do its best, but can stand more sun. Better

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suited to the perennial border than to the rock garden. I frequently find it 30 inches tall.

BRACKEN—a true upland Fern. Has a broad, much divided leaf. I find it along the roadsides, where it gets considerable sun. Handsome for the wild garden or perennial border but not suited to pot culture.

RESURRECTION FERN—ideal for terrariums. Seldom more than 3 inches high. Also ideal for rock gardens. Very hardy. I find it spreading a web of roots over rocks, and also growing on dead trees among Moss. Rotten wood seems to be an ideal fertilizer for it. When transplanting from a tree, much better results are obtained by taking the bark, instead of removing the Fern from it, and planting bark, moss and Fern without disturbing the roots.

All Ferns 10c each, 3 for 25c. Post-paid.

HOUSE PLANTS

Common Green Leaf Wandering Jew, 5c.

Large Green Leaf Wandering Jew, Purple and grey-striped Wandering Jew, 5c.

Red Bird Cactus (Green Pedilanthus) 10c.

Variegated Pedilanthus, 10c.

Peanut Cactus (Chamecerous Sylvestris) 10c.

Opuntia Vilyi (dwarf tender) 10c.

Opuntia, either elata or subelata, not sure which, 10c.

An almost spineless opuntia, I have not yet identified, 10c.

Opuntia ficus indica (Indian fig) fruit edible, 10c.

Cactus Echinopsis, 10c.

Unless otherwise stated, all plants whose prices are not given, are 5c

each. Postage paid on orders of 50c or more. For less than that amount, please add 5c.

I will swap plants, your selection, to amount of \$2 postpaid for strong three-eye division of Mons Martin Chahusac Peony.

I will swap plants, your selection, to amount of \$1.50 for a strong three-eye division of Philip Revoir Peony.

I will swap plants, your selection, to amount of 50c for a strong three-eye division of Edulis Superba Peony.

Peonies to be sent in fall when dormant. Each party to pay postage on what we send.

Until income is bigger, the Yellow Sheets will be published bi-monthly; and until my cubs are home from the war, more attention will be paid to unusual plants, many from other lands, than to our wildlings.

Subscription 25c for 12 issues.—Nice present for your garden-loving friends.

Mrs. Laura D. Cole
Grannis, Arkansas

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My Father worketh hitherto and I
work.—John 5:17.

Jesus here makes clear that His way
does not include laziness, shiftlessness
nor loafing. In the Old Testament, in
the Law given directly from God, spe-
cial emphasis is laid on assistance to
widows and orphan children.

In the present world crisis Victory
gardens are of grave importance. Many
widows are trying to render patriotic
service by raising needed food, but
quite frequently some task, such as cut-

ting posts, digging post holes and the like, arises, which are beyond her strength. There are plenty of old men, beyond draft age, probably not strong enough for full time factory work, but plenty able to work two or three hours a day. But let a woman try to hire one, no matter how great her need!

Many are living on Government allotments, enough to get by on, so why work? The commands and example of Jesus just don't count against the pleasures of loafing. The best a woman can expect is a grin and "I'm sorry, but I jest ain't got time." I wonder if their guardian angels are not sorely tempted to give them a swift kick in the pants.

The Hawthornia

Mrs. E. J. Peterson, Eagle Bend, Minn.

All probably know that these plants are native to Africa and are named in honor of the English botanist, Mr. Haworth.

Even though native to Africa, they seem to do better here if the glare of the hot sun in summer is dimmed. They like an east location; also south if glare is dimmed, but they will retain their beauty wherever grown (which is more than one can say for most plants).

I use same soil mixture as for a Geranium, which is dark garden soil, with a little sand added; and I try to have plant rest on a little coarse sand, in case water does not drain off rapidly from a heavy rain in summer while they are out of doors. They are equally satisfied if watered from top or bottom. Will endure more water than most Succulents. In fact, they are so determined to live they will pull through most any variety of neglect. They are far easier to care for than a Geranium—needless to say they are my favorite

Succulent, and I wish I had all of the 200 varieties which have been named and described to date.

Whether "windowed or wanted" each has its own special appeal—always anxious to bloom—but they are not grown for their blooms which are not very attractive; each little plant rosette is more like a flower.

This season of '45 is not only very wet, but very early, and has brought several botanical puzzles which I have not yet solved. *Houstonias* and *Viola rafinesque* were both so late I did not advertise them. And I do not know why. Neither can I account for the increase in *Five Fingers* (*Potentilla*) here in the home woods.

Have culled my hens down to seven and am getting from 5 to 7 eggs daily, which more than supplies us two old women. There is usually little use in keeping a male bird with such a small flock, but I want to set some of our home eggs, and present cockerel is about the best I have yet raised. Does not carry his tail exactly to suit me, but otherwise would score well.

I keep them cooped until late afternoon, which secures all the eggs, yet allows them plenty of exercise. Fresh, clean water is kept before them as well as scratch feed.

Part of my vegetable garden is raw new ground. Had to hire an old woman to plow it for me and the persistent rains let the grass flourish. Naturally, when the ground is fit to work, I use a spading fork freely. Shake the dirt out of clumps of grass and throw them in the coops. Keeps the hens amused and they eat part of the grass. The remainder makes nice nesting material.

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My oldest mother plant of Chinese Temple (*Kalanchoe daigermontiana*) is growing tiny plantlets from the edges of several leaves. All three varieties of *Kalanchoe* that I have, have again proven dependable winter bloomers.

Billbergia nutans (never heard of a common name for it) is another dependable and interesting winter bloomer. Spathe rose color, petals pale blue and center yellow. A good cut flower.

If bothered with weeds, eat them. The tender Pepper Grass and wild Mustard which appear among my plants are very nice minced with Lettuce. Purslane (*Pussley*) is a fine boiling green. I prefer it mixed with Turnip leaves. Said to be particularly good for those with kidney trouble. Shepherd's Purse and Leather Breeches are also common weeds and excellent and very early boiling greens. Pokeweed is an edible wildling about which clings much superstition. I read in a reputable magazine that the water in which Poke Salad is boiled should always be discarded, being poisonous. That astonished me because for fifty years I have known the "pot likker" to be used for food and never heard of any bad results following.

If your main interest in your flowers is scientific, or you are collecting certain species, then you need the specialty books, usually rather high priced. But if you want a pretty garden with plenty of cut flowers in season and blooming plants in the window garden in winter, then the best book I've come across for that purpose was recently given me—The Pocket Book of Flower

Gardening, by Montague Free, horticulturist at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. It is published by Pocket Books, Inc., of New York and for sale on news stands. I think the price is 25c.

It is a handy size to carry in your apron pocket, but has 486 pages packed with information. Will probably save you its cost in cash many times over by enabling you to judge if certain plants are suited to your location; and also worry over hopeless efforts.

I see by the papers that the Labor Board has announced its decisions are not subject to state laws. This is bureaucracy gone wild. Our Constitution specifically vests the law-making power exclusively in Congress, and makes no provision for Congress to shirk that authority over to any one else. The Constitution also provides that ALL power not delegated to the general government, remains with the states. Nowhere does it delegate labor disputes to the general government, hence their regulation remains with the states.

The past few years have seen a remarkable advance in dictatorship both in Europe and the Americas. Our liberty is based on and defended by our Constitution and Bill of Rights, but we cannot safely go to sleep with the idea that we need not look out for our liberty. Eternal vigilance is our part. Better write your Congressman that you expect him to be true to his oath of office to defend the Constitution, and that if he lacks the necessary backbone to defy the bureaucrats, you will vote, next time, for some one who has.

